

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claim 1 (canceled).

Claim 2 (canceled).

Claim 3 (currently amended). The ~~self-adhesive article as claimed in method~~ of Claim 4 15 or 16, wherein the backing material in film form has a thickness of from 10 to 150  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 4 (currently amended). The ~~self-adhesive article as claimed in method~~ of Claim 4 15 or 16, wherein the backing material in film form is composed of polyolefins, polyolefin blends, polyurethane, flexible PVC or a combination thereof.

Claim 5 (currently amended). The ~~self-adhesive article as claimed in method~~ of Claim 4 15 or 16, wherein the backing material in film form contains more than 0.15% by weight of a light stabilizer.

Claim 6 (currently amended). The ~~self-adhesive article as claimed in method~~ of Claim 4 15 or 16, wherein the backing material in film form is perforated, foamed or both.

Claim 7 (currently amended). The ~~self-adhesive article as claimed in method~~ of Claim 4 15 or 16, wherein the knitted fabric has a basis weight of from 10 to 200  $\text{g/m}^2$ .

Claim 8 (currently amended). The ~~self-adhesive article as claimed in method of~~  
Claim 4 15 or 16, wherein the knitted fabric is composed of polyamide, polyester or  
polyethylene.

Claim 9 (currently amended). The ~~self-adhesive article as claimed in method of~~  
Claim 4 15 or 16, wherein the backing material is coated with from 10 to 80 g/m<sup>2</sup>, of a self-  
adhesive composition.

Claim 10 (currently amended). The ~~self-adhesive article as claimed in method~~  
of Claim 4 15 or 16, wherein the backing material in film form is joined to the knitted fabric  
by means of a laminating adhesive.

Claim 11 (currently amended). The ~~self-adhesive article as claimed in method~~  
of claim 10, wherein the backing material in film form is joined to the knitted fabric by means  
of a reactive laminating adhesive based on a two-part polyurethane.

Claim 12 (currently amended). The ~~self-adhesive article as claimed in method~~  
of claim 10, wherein the laminating adhesive is applied over the complete area or partially.

Claim 13 (currently amended). The ~~self-adhesive article as claimed in method~~  
of Claim ~~40~~ 15 or 16, wherein the base polymer of the pressure sensitive adhesive is  
polyisobutylene or polyethylene-vinyl acetate.

Claim 14 (currently amended). The ~~self-adhesive article as claimed in method~~  
~~of Claim 4~~ 15 or 16, wherein an adhesion promoter is situated between ~~the~~ backing material  
in film form and pressure sensitive adhesive.

Claim 15 (currently amended). A method for ~~protecting the mechanical~~  
~~protection of~~ curved areas on the outside of automobiles which comprises applying to said  
curved areas a protective sheet comprised of a backing material in film form having  
a Young's modulus of less than 300 N/mm<sup>2</sup>, an outer side and an inner side, the  
outer side of which is laminated with a layer of knitted fabric and the inner side of  
which is pressure-sensitively adhesive through application of a self-adhesive  
composition ~~the self-adhesive article of Claim 1.~~

Claim 16 (currently amended). A method for the mechanical protection of painted  
plastic automobile bumpers, which comprises applying to said bumpers a protective sheet  
comprised of a backing material in film form having a Young's modulus of less  
than 300 N/mm<sup>2</sup>, an outer side and an inner side, the outer side of which is  
laminated with a layer of knitted fabric and the inner side of which is pressure-  
sensitively adhesive through application of a self-adhesive composition ~~the self-~~  
~~adhesive article of Claim 1.~~

Claim 17 (currently amended). The ~~self-adhesive article~~ method of Claim ~~2~~ 15 or  
16, wherein said Young's modulus is less than 150 N/mm<sup>2</sup>.

Claim 18 (**currently amended**). The ~~self-adhesive article~~ method of Claim 3, wherein said thickness is from 40-100  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 19 (**currently amended**). The ~~self-adhesive article~~ method of Claim 5, wherein the backing material in film form contains more than 0.3% by weight of said light stabilizer.

Claim 20 (**currently amended**). The ~~self-adhesive article~~ method of Claim 7, wherein said basis weight is from 20-80  $\text{g/m}^2$ .

Claim 21. (**currently amended**). The ~~self-adhesive article~~ method of Claim 9, wherein said backing material is coated with from 15-40  $\text{g/m}^2$  of said self-adhesive composition.